

Clean version of amended claims and new claims

1. A checkout system comprising:

a computer;

a barcode reader coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on an item; and

a security system separate from and adjacent to the barcode reader and coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including

a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and

a sensor for sensing placement of the item within range of the field generator;

wherein the security system initiates display of a message following the reading of the barcode label instructing an operator to place the item within a deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement.

3. A checkout system convertible between assisted-service and self-service checkout operation comprising:

a computer;

a barcode reader coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on an item; and

a security system separate from and adjacent to the barcode reader and coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including

a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and

A2
a pop-up housing vertically moveable between a raised position for self-service checkout operation and a recessed position for assisted-service checkout operation;

wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor for sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of the field generator during self-service checkout operation; and

wherein the security system initiates display of a message following the reading of the barcode label instructing a self-service customer to place the item within the deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement during self-service checkout operation.

4. A product security system comprising:

a field generator for deactivating a security label on an item; and

a pop-up housing opposite a customer side of the field generator and moveable between a raised position for self-

service checkout operation and a recessed position for assisted-service checkout operation;

wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor for sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of the field generator following reading of barcode label during self-service checkout operation; and

wherein the security system initiates display of a message following reading of a barcode label on the item instructing a self-service customer to place the item within the deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement during self-service checkout operation.

5. A transaction method comprising the steps of:
reading a barcode label on an item by a barcode reader;
obtaining barcode information from the barcode reader by a computer;
activating a field generator separate from and adjacent to the barcode reader for deactivating a security label on the item by the computer;
determining whether the item comes within a deactivation range of the field generator by the computer;
and
if the item does not come within the deactivation range, initiating display of a message instructing an

operator to place the item within the deactivation range of the field generator.

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6. A transaction method comprising the steps of: positioning a sensor separate from and adjacent to a barcode reader to identify an item within a deactivation range of a field generator separate from and adjacent to the barcode reader;

reading a barcode label on the item by [a] the barcode reader;

obtaining barcode information from the barcode reader by a computer;

activating the field generator to deactivate a security label on the item by the computer;

determining from the sensor whether the item comes within the deactivation range of the field generator by the computer; and

if the item does not come within the deactivation range, initiating display of a message instructing an operator to place the item within the deactivation range of the field generator.

A3

7. A checkout system comprising:

a checkout counter;

a computer with the checkout counter;

a barcode reader mounted in the checkout counter and coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on an item; and

a security system mounted in the checkout counter separate from and adjacent to the barcode reader and coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including

a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and

a sensor for sensing placement of the item within range of the field generator;

wherein the security system initiates display of a message following the reading of the barcode label instructing an operator to place the item within a deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement.

8. A checkout system convertible between assisted-service and self-service checkout operation comprising:

a checkout counter;

a computer with the checkout counter;

a barcode reader mounted in the checkout counter and coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on an item; and

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a security system mounted in the checkout counter separate from and adjacent to the barcode reader and coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including

a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and

a pop-up housing vertically moveable between a raised position for self-service checkout operation and a recessed position for assisted-service checkout operation;

wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor for sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of the field generator during self-service checkout operation; and

wherein the security system initiates display of a message following the reading of the barcode label instructing a self-service customer to place the item within the deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement during self-service checkout operation.